

AMMOMYS AND OTHER COMPOUNDS OF MYS.

In a paper "On the Generic Arrangement of the Australian Rats hitherto referred to *Conilurus*," Thomas has established a new genus under the name *Ammomys*, taking as type *Mus hirsutus* Gould (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., 7th ser., XVII, p. 84, Jan., 1906). *Ammomys* was originally proposed as a generic name 75 years ago by Bonaparte, who applied it, in 1831, to the pine mouse of the United States now placed in the subgenus *Pitymys*. It is consequently not available for any other group and especially for a second genus in the same family. The group of Australian jerboa-rats of which *M. hirsutus* is the type and which Thomas has shown to be closely related to *Notomys* may therefore be known as **Mesembriomys*** in allusion to its southern habitat.

In my "Index Generum Mammalium" (N. Am. Fauna, No. 23, p. 55) I listed about 350 compounds of $\mu\upsilon\varsigma$ which had been published prior to 1904, and called attention to the fact that nearly eight per cent of all the generic names of mammals were compounds of this word. A number of additions have since been made to the list so that the total number is now probably not far from 400. The effort to coin names with reference to some special meaning has been responsible for several cases of duplication and also for several terms of identical meaning as *Ammomys* and *Psanmomys* for sand mouse, *Pitymys* and *Pinemys* for pine mouse, and *Notomys* and *Notiomys* for southern mouse. Although the number of possible compounds has by no means been exhausted, it is evident that the chances of duplication are very great and hence it is important to take every precaution to ascertain before publication whether proposed names have already appeared in print.—*T. S. Palmer.*

* $\mu\epsilon\sigma\eta\mu\beta\rho\iota\alpha$, south; $\mu\upsilon\varsigma$, mouse.